



Maine Historical Society

COLLECTING • PRESERVING • PRESENTING THE HISTORY OF MAINE

Spring 2006



Students from Lyseth, Presumpscot, and Peaks Island schools lead their families on a tour of the exhibit at MHS, including some of the students' original works (bottom right).

Kids, Families, Schools, and Communities – *The MHS Education Department is Making a Difference in Maine*

Scenes from the life: There's a line on Congress street a block long waiting for the premiere of an historic color film on Portland life—it's part of our fall program series. Nearly 120 beaming parents and excited children from local third grades fill the auditorium and gallery—it's the culmination of our Local History/Local Schools program. Up in Aroostook County, a group of teachers, librarians, and members of the historical society have come through the snow to learn how community history and identity can come together on the Web—it's our Maine Community Heritage Project. All of these wonderful scenes, and many more like them, were made possible through the hard work, imagination, and expertise of the MHS education department. This edition of the newsletter is devoted to their accomplishments, with articles on:

- **Going Deeper with Kids:** Intensifying the museum/elementary school partnership
- **Making Connections:** Public programs and key partnerships
- **Henry's in the House:** The lasting attraction of Longfellow
- **New Text, New Resources:** A comprehensive Maine studies curriculum goes online
- **Preserving Community Heritage:** Pilot programs across the state encourage cooperation
- **Exhibits Have Nine Lives:** Sharing MHS original shows and learning materials statewide



Gabielle Wagabaza, third grade student at Presumpscot (above).





Lady with Dove, c. 1830, Charles Codman, painter, Oil on Canvas. Gift of Ella H. Hayes

Hannah Carlson, "Lady With Dove." "I chose lady with dove because I think the lady is pretty and I like the artist's style of painting. I like the background's details and the details of the lady. I really like this painting. I think that it is really good and colorful. The lady is the brightest and stands out, and it makes you look at her first."

Executive Director Richard D'Abate greeting parents, teachers, and students at the final school program event



Going Deeper with Kids —

Intensifying the museum/elementary school partnership

This fall we invited 3rd grade classes in Portland to participate in a new, multi-visit, museum/school partnership called Local History/Local Schools. The goal was to strengthen



our ties to local classrooms while maximizing the educational impact of our museum exhibits. The fall exhibit was *A City Awakes: The Arts and Artists of Early 19th Century Portland*, and it offered wonderful opportunities to engage the imaginations and critical faculties of children. We quickly reached our maximum of four classes with early sign-ups from the Lyseth, Presumpscot, and Peaks Island schools.

Using lesson plans designed in conjunction with the Maine State Learning Results

and focusing on visual literacy and local history, MHS educators visited each classroom before and after the planned visit to MHS to prepare and reinforce the learning experience. At the museum exhibit itself, students chose objects and time periods to study, draw, write about, and share. All of their work was then put on display at MHS for the grand culmination—an open-house evening for the kids, their parents, brothers and sisters, teachers and principals. It was a full house, and the greatest sight was watching newly minted experts lead their parents on a tour of the show.

When MHS announced it would do a similar program this spring, based on our winter exhibit, *A Riot of Words: Ballads and Broad sides, Posters and Proclamations*, the six available classroom slots were filled within hour! Teachers know a quality program when they see it. For more information contact Carolin Collins, 207-774-1822.

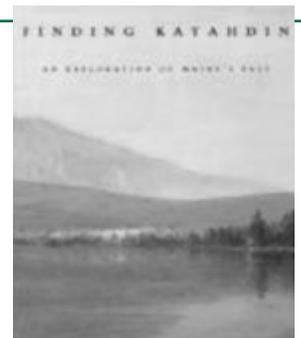
NEW TEXT, NEW RESOURCES

A comprehensive Maine studies curriculum goes online

Until recently, there have been woefully few resources available to support the teaching of Maine studies, online or off. We are pleased to announce that the Maine Memory Network has recently been expanded to include a comprehensive Maine studies curriculum, called **Finding Katahdin Online**. Made possible by a partnership between Maine Historical Society and the University of Maine Press, Finding Katahdin Online is a web-based resource for teachers and students that uses the interpretation of primary source documents to illustrate Maine history from pre-history to the present.

Over 50 lesson plans and hundreds of primary sources have been assembled to create this vast resource. The lesson plans were created by Amy Hassinger for UMaine Press to complement and support the recently published Maine history textbook, *Finding Katahdin: An Exploration of Maine's Past*. Through a special arrangement, the Maine Memory Network is the only place these resources are available, and they are free to teachers and students. Now, visitors can browse through the collection of lesson plans by subject, keyword, class time, or learning result, and easily download and print for classroom use.

The lesson plans and primary source exhibits are organized in sequence with the textbook, but do not require the textbook for implementation. You can browse Finding Katahdin Online through the Schools section of the Maine Memory Network, or by going to www.mainememory.net/schools_FK.shtml.



Finding Katahdin (University of Maine Press, 2001) explores the history of Maine from pre-contact through the 20th Century.

Henry's in the House

The lasting attraction of Longfellow

Delightful notes and pictures of thanks are just one of the rewards to sharing Henry's house with students.

Dear Carolyn,
 - I learned a lot from you, like that Anna had a bad back and that she lifted weights to keep healthy. You were great at it and thank you for the stuff you taught me and keep it up

Sincerely,
 Nathan W.L

ONE HUNDRED AND FIVE YEARS after it opened to the public as a museum, the Longfellow House in Portland continues to attract visitors from all over the world, the country, and the state. It is also a key destination

for thousands of Maine school children each year. The draw, of course, is that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, one of the most influential cultural figures of the 19th century, grew up in this now meticulously researched and restored home. All Longfellow House programs come under the MHS Education Department.

Last year nearly 4,000 children from 56 schools, and 10,000 tourists came to the Longfellow House. Many were passengers on the 27 cruise ships that docked in Portland. Others were on one of the 39 bus tours that made Maine Historical Society part of their route. People from 48 states and at least seven different countries made the trip (Australia and Russia were the farthest). When they arrived they found a staff of carefully trained guides and volunteer docents (some 30 in all!) who were ready to evoke the spirit of Longfellow's home, family and poetry, and to stimulate a desire to learn more. It is, to judge from our surveys, an overwhelmingly positive experience.

The poet's fame and public interest in the Longfellow House will grow substantially in the next few years. That's because 2007 marks the two-hundredth anniversary of his birth. Celebrations and new scholarly appraisals are already being planned in Maine, Massachusetts, Canada, and Louisiana and there will no doubt be more across the country. Henry is in the house.

Before entering the house, students receive a brief orientation.



EXHIBITS HAVE NINE LIVES

Sharing MHS original shows and learning materials statewide

In the past, one of the challenges facing the Education Department has been how to get the most out of the educational resources created to enrich school visits to the MHS museum. For each exhibit we create unique pre- and post-visit lesson plans for teachers, as well as on-site learning activities for students — all designed in accordance with the Maine State Learning Results. But the shows come down and valuable resources become obsolete.

That is now changing thanks to an important staff effort. MHS Museum exhibits are now being digitally preserved and made available statewide

through the Maine Memory Network. At the same time Education interns are working to adapt the accompanying learning resources to the online environment. Not only are these materials repurposed, but they, and the shows they are based on, now become permanently available to a school audience many times greater than the original. Another example of the value of the Internet.



This manuscript map was created by Thomas Johnston in 1753 and shows the granted land on both sides of the Kennebec River. It declares "God hath Planted us here, God deeded this land to us" but great controversy surrounded this and subsequent Kennebec maps created by Thomas Johnston.

Last fall, for instance, Bjorn Swenson, an intern from the American and New England Studies program at the University of Southern Maine, set to work expanding and adapting materials developed for the 2003 exhibit, *The Shape of Maine: Drawing Boundaries, Mapping History*. The unit covers topics such as map skills, boundary disputes (historic and present-day), and interpretation of historic documents. The lessons are designed to be done in the classroom or a computer lab, and can be adapted for use with grades 3-10. *The Shape of Maine* lesson plans will be on-line in the Spring, to be followed by nits based on other past exhibits.



Surveyor's half chain, ca. 1800.

Surveyors measured the lengths of boundary lines in rods (16 feet) or chains (4 rods or 66 feet) and determined directions with compasses. This chain is 33 feet long, or two rods in length. It is also called a half-Gunther chain. Edmund Gunther, an English astronomer, developed the Gunther's chain and associated tables for surveying. One lot of land ten chains by ten chains equalled an acre.

PRESERVING COMMUNITY HERITAGE

Pilot Programs across the State Encourage Cooperation



Student from Lisbon Middle School learning to scan original documents at the Lisbon Historical Society, a forerunner to the Maine Community Heritage Project.

Over the next eighteen months, Maine Historical Society staff will be working with three pilot communities—Skowhegan, New Sweden, and Mt. Desert Island—to develop the **Maine Community Heritage Project** (MCHP). The goal is to bring together local schools, historical societies, libraries, and other community groups to build a representation of their community heritage online, using the tools of the Maine Memory Network.

Funded by Jane's Trust of Boston, the project grows out of the work MHS has been doing for the last three years to foster relationships between local schools and historical societies in support of the Maine Memory Network. Every community in Maine has a rich history and valuable historical resources, though the information is often scattered and difficult to access. The MCHP will start to change that, drawing together town histories; digital copies of historical photographs and documents; oral histories; iMovie documentaries, and more.

The project has other important goals as well. “We have found,” says Steve Bromage, MHS Director of Education, “that the process of exploring, gathering, and sharing local history can bring people together, tap the strengths and interests of different groups, and create the foundations of ongoing, meaningful relationships. Amazing things can happen.” It is, in fact, already clear that the MCHP will benefit the entire community. High school students will play an especially important role in helping to research and build the online exhibits, while gaining valuable in-service learning opportunities. Historical societies will receive help caring for, digitizing, interpreting, and sharing their collections, while taking on a more prominent and visible role in the communities. Libraries, already centers of technological expertise and information sharing, will have important new local resources to bring to the attention of townspeople.

If you would like more information about MCHP, contact Steve Bromage, 207-774-1822.

MAKING CONNECTIONS — PUBLIC PROGRAMS & KEY PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout the year the Education Department brings noted speakers and unusual programs to MHS that cannot easily be found anywhere else. These are often produced in partnership with other organizations, helping to spread the word and build the best, most diverse audience possible. We explore historical and contemporary issues raised by our exhibits, share important scholarship, celebrate new publications, and help participants develop useful skills. Here are some highlights from the last few years:

THE PROGRAMS:

- **Ed Bearss**, Civil War historian famous from the Ken Burns' documentary, on the changing estimate of Joshua Chamberlain and Maine's role in the Civil War.
- Acclaimed novelist **Rick Moody** on his *The Black Veil* and its connection to Joseph Moody of York and the stories of Nathaniel Hawthorne —for the exhibit *Amazing Maine*.
- With Maine Preservation: **Charlie Dodge** on *The Moving of Spite House, 1925*, an extraordinary documentary about the rescue of one of Maine's most classic buildings.
- **Alan Trachtenberg**, Professor of American Studies at Yale, on *Hiawatha*, as part of the annual Longfellow Forum on important cultural and historic topics of the 19th century.
- **Alexandra and Garrett Conover**, on the wilderness experience today, following their 2005 Walk for the Woods — for the exhibit *Umbazooksus and Beyond*.
- Introduction to Heritage Quest and other on-line databases, a workshop by **Kathy Amoroso** for novice as well as experienced genealogists.

THE PARTNERSHIPS:

- With the **Baxter School for the Deaf and USM Linguistics Department**: McArthur Fellow Harlan Lane on the life and career of the great deaf artist from Maine, John Brewster.
- With **Northeast Historic Film**: Maine Home Movie Day, a workshop for showing, appraising, and preserving family and amateur film.
- With **Maine College of Art**: Portland and the Arts: A Contemporary Roundtable, featuring artists, business leaders, and city officials — for the exhibit *A City Awakes*.
- With the **Chinese/American Friendship Association of Maine**: The Chinese Experience in Maine, one of a series of MHS ethnic history forums.

THE BROADSIDES of JOSEPH WOOD

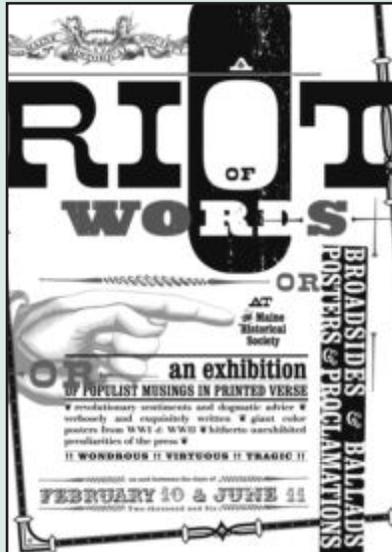
A fascinating group of objects in the current exhibit, *A Riot of Words*, are several broadsides printed in the early 1870s, by Joseph Wood (1842-1923) of Wiscasset.

**“WANTED 2000 BUSHELS POTATOES
Highest Cash Price Paid...”**

**“GO AND SEE EVERRETT’S GRAND
INDIAN EXHIBITION...Thursday,
Evening, March 13...”**

**“A REWARD OF TWENTY-FIVE
DOLLARS will be paid for information that
may lead to the conviction of any person who
Breaks, Injures or Defaces Any Fence, about the
Cemeteries of this Town.”**

**“Dr. B. F. Lancaster, SURGEON DENTIST,
Respectfully announces to the citizens of
Wiscasset and vicinity, that he has opened an
office at the HILTON HOUSE, where he will be
happy to wait on all who may be in want of his
professional services...” 1871**



editor and publisher, as Secretary of the Maine Editors and Printers Association from 1870 to 1915, and through a number of public-spirited activities that ranged from keeper of the local library to serving as town selectman.

Wood’s broadsides, newspapers, and other documentary material survived through a number of circumstances. Wood was a thoughtful recorder of history and local events, and he saved and organized evidence of his interest and accomplishments. He became a member of Maine Historical Society in 1890, and donated a number of his personal and his family papers, newspapers, and printing samples. And in 1943, the

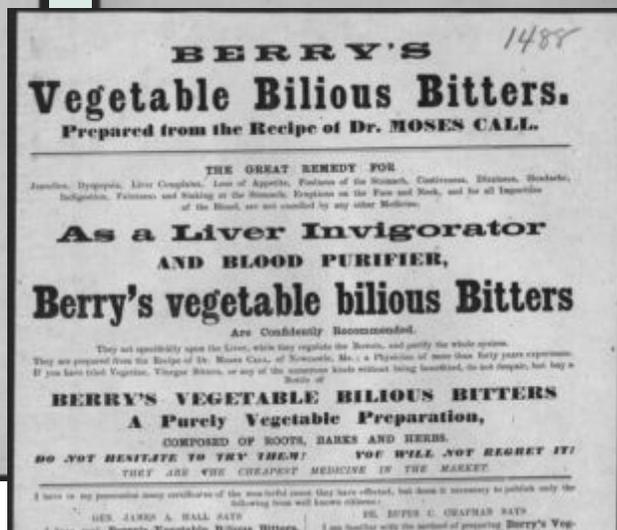
Wood printed these sheets as part of his business as ‘job printer.’ He opened his print shop in what was his hometown of Wiscasset in 1866, where he provided printing services for his customers until he moved on in 1879. Wood most likely worked alone or with a young assistant, and used older-style, hand-powered equipment. He would carefully lay out his printing job, set the type, and manually print however many copies were desired. In a sense he served the role that a local copy center does today.

American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, MA transferred a complimentary collection of over 300 Wiscasset broadsides printed by Wood in Wiscasset in 1870.

The story of Joseph Wood and samples of his work add a human dimension to the story told in *A Riot of Words*.

Wood’s broadsides were printed to be posted or circulated around town, and in this way, advertise new business opportunities, share recent news, promote events, and generally keep the community informed. Each of them in some way, reveal the interests and concerns of some of the citizens of a small, Maine village.

Joseph Wood’s story reaches beyond the collection of broadsides and is told through his active life as a small-town newspaper



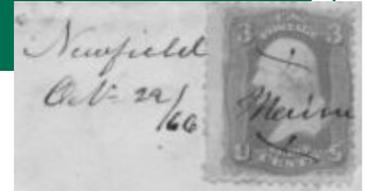
Maine Postmarks Have Stories to Tell



Note the mistake on this rubber stamped postmark from Beals, Maine: the year 1938 is inset upside down



This 1882 post mark from Garland has an unusual octagon-shape.



An unusual 1866 manuscript postmark from Newfield with "Maine" written across the stamp as cancellation.

A fabulous addition to the MHS collections was made in December 2004 with a generous donation from William S. Arata of Bangor, Maine. The gift includes 2104 "covers," envelopes with postmarks, from sites throughout Maine, and it spans at least two centuries, from 1807 to 1989. Many undated documents probably date from the 18th century. Mr. Arata, a financial advisor with UBS, has been adding to his collections for the past twenty years; he is an active supporter of the Bangor Museum & Center for History.

This past summer Wendy Henerlau, an intern from the American and New England Studies program at the University of Southern Maine, created an extensive inventory of this valuable collection that includes notes and cross-references for multiple postmarks. If that sounds like it might have been a tedious job, Wendy assures us that it wasn't: "The postmark collection is fascinating! All those postmarks tell a story."

What kind of story can a postmark tell? They can speak to the urban development of Maine, with many postmarks representing independent communities, little hamlets, that over time became incorporated into larger towns and cities. They can tell of local or national events, such as the 1929 Lewiston Dog Mail or the 1938 Twentieth Anniversary of National Air Mail Week. They can tell the history of postal automation, from postmarks indicated by the postmaster's signature, to rubber stamped marks (one postmark has the year inset upside down!), to machine printed markings.

In addition to postmark changes, the postage itself ranges from a simple handwritten "paid," to stamps affixed in any manner – right corner, as well as the left, the middle or even the bottom of the envelope – to embossed and preprinted postage.

Finally, tucked between the postmarks are glimpses of the people who sent the mail. Many early envelopes included the writer's instruction: "If unable to deliver after seven days, return to sender." One apparently frustrated writer wrote the standard formula with a twist: "If unable to deliver after seven days, try harder the eighth!"

The inventory and finding aid that Wendy created should help researchers access this unique addition to the archives.



Please Join Us!

The Maine Historical Society

SPRING GALA

Saturday, June 10th, 2006

at

The Woodlands Country Club

Falmouth, ME

With the Phil Rich Big Band

Invitations to follow

Trustees Offer

LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

Your membership dues are important to Maine Historical Society, but did you know they cover only a small portion of the costs associated with the benefits you receive?

The Annual Fund is Maine Historical Society's yearly appeal to members and friends.

A gift to the Annual Fund supports all essential operations, while sustaining growth in programs, services, outreach, and member benefits, such as HeritageQuest Online and Ancestry.Com.

To date, 304 generous members and friends have contributed more than \$120,000 toward our year-end goal of \$180,000. But with \$60,000 still to go, we need your help.

To encourage your support, the MHS Board of Trustees has joined together to offer a *Leadership Challenge*. If you are giving to the Annual Fund for the first time, or if you increase your gift this year, the Board will match all increases over last year's levels, dollar for dollar. It's a simple way to multiply your generosity. Please help us take advantage of this opportunity.

To all those who responded to our fall appeal, we want to say a heartfelt "thank you." If you haven't made a gift, we hope you'll respond to our upcoming appeal. Each gift – and every gift – is important in the work of preserving Maine's history. For more information, please call Leslie Hahn in our Development Office at (207) 774-1822.

SEARCHING YOUR ROOTS

We hope to publish tidbits of interest in every newsletter to those researching their family histories. Although we do not have space for personal search queries, we invite information from our readers that would be of interest to other genealogists. Please email jkingman@mainehistory.org if you have something to share.

- **Ancestry.com** is now available for use within the MHS library. This resource is a great addition to our other web-based resources, such as **New England Ancestors** and **Heritage Quest**. Unlike Heritage Quest, which is available remotely to our members, Ancestry is only available in the library itself, due to vendor restrictions.
- The library would like to thank the **Jodrie Family** for the generous donation of materials from the estate of George and Barbara Jodrie, long time members of MHS. There are numerous books relating to Mayflower ancestry and Canadian genealogy, especially French-Canadian. The gift is gradually being integrated into the collections for library use.
- **1850 Maine Census indexes** compiled by MHS member Larry S. Glatz are now bound and ready for use. The Census indexes are organized by county, and include additional information from the town & city directories. We are very appreciative of Mr. Glatz' continued work.
- **New Books in the Library:**
 1. *Trace Your Roots with DNA* by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak (yes, there are two Smolenyak's in her name!) and Ann Turner.
 2. *Family names of the Island of Newfoundland* by E. R. Seary.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

The 184th Annual Meeting of the MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

will be held on
SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2006
10:00 A.M.

Chebeague Island Inn, Chebeague Island

Mark your calendars for this island adventure!



*Hotel on Chebeague Island from the Wittemann collection of postcard photographs,
Maine Historical Society*



MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Incorporated 1822

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James F. Millinger, Secretary
Robert P. BaRoss, Treasurer

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SPRING HOURS
Maine Historical Society

MHS Research Library (ext. 209)
Tues-Sat 10-4:00
Closed Holiday Weekends

Wadsworth-Longfellow House
Open for school group tours: April 1
Open to public: May 1 >summer
Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5

Museum Exhibits
Feb, March, April: Mon-Sat 10-5
May 1-June 5: Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5

Museum Shop (ext. 208)
Feb, March, April: Mon-Sat 10-5
May 1: Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5

MHS Administrative Offices
Mon-Fri 9-5:00
Tel: (207) 774-1822
Fax: (207) 775-4301
E-mail: sarchbald@mainehistory.org

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Portland, ME 04101

Websites:
www.mainehistory.org
www.mainememory.net
www.vintagemaineimages.com

FOR YOUNG FOLKS

at the Museum Store



BOOKS

- *The Art of Reading*, \$19.99 hardcover, celebrates the 40th anniversary of RIF (Reading is Fundamental).
- *Once Upon a Time A-Z*, \$35.00 oversized paperback, features stories and full color illustrations from fairytales, fables, primers, and pop-ups — just beautiful!
- For the young history buff *American History Fresh Squeezed*, \$7.95 paperback, presents historical facts in 41 hilarious poems.

And please visit our online store at www.mainehistory.org.
Your members-only discount is valid on-line and in our shop at 489 Congress Street.



GIFTS

- Gifts include a miniature cast iron camp stove \$21.95, in black or rustic brown.
- Town crier balance toy, \$74.95 (we think he looks like Paul Revere).
- A set of three juggling balls, \$12.95.
- Historical action figures, \$6.95, including Paul Revere, George Washington, Ben Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson and Harriet Tubman.

The Maine Historical Society preserves the heritage and history of Maine: the stories of Maine people, the traditions of Maine communities, and the record of Maine's place in a changing world.

Maine Historical Society
489 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101-3498



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U.S. Postage
P A I D
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